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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/708,899

03/30/2004

Ishwara A. Bhat

H0005369

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07/25/2006

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EXAMINER

GOINS, DAVETTA WOODS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2612

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/708,899

Applicant(s)

BHAT, ISHWARA A.

Examiner

Davetta W. Goins

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-17, 19-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18 and 26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-12 are allowed.
2. Claims 18 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 13-17 and 19-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Capowski et al. (US Pat. 6,693,532) in view of Kirschner et al. (US Pat. 6,856,258 B2).

In reference to claims 13-17, 19-25, Capowski discloses the claimed voice point module including a network interface having an address such that the voice point module is addressable by the address, which is met by at least one network 16 of addressable alarm notification appliances A. Each device, also called a notification appliance 24, may include one or more notification devices, for example, a visual alarm (strobe), an audible alarm (horn), or a

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combination thereof (A/V device). Also, a speaker for broadcasting live or prerecorded voice messages and a strobe may be combined into a single unit (SN device) (col. 4, lines 1-13).

Although Capowski does not specifically disclose the claimed audio block and control block, he does disclose that the system allows for the notification appliance(s) to be able to broadcast either "live" or "prerecorded" voice messages upon detected an alarm condition. Kirschner discloses an alarm condition in which various autonomous announcement computer 20, 30 (modules) have stored therein a full array of announcements in both audio and text format with associated event identifiers and, furthermore, has within its storage a schedule of the particular language in which the announcement should be made at a particular time of day or in response to a detected alarm such as smoke, fire, etc. (col. 3, lines 23-53). In many instances, the stored audio message is played multiple times. It may be played sequentially at least twice as illustrated by reference number 125 and reference number 130. Depending upon the configuration of the system, the broadcast 150 of live audio announcements may take precedence over the broadcast of stored audio messages and, as a result, in the event a live audio announcement 135 is received from the master computer through the audio matrix 140, the module 50 (FIG. 1), upon receipt 145 of the live audio announcement, will "override any stored audio message announcements" and play the live announcement 150 (col. 4, lines 57-67; col. 5, lines 1-16). Since Capowski discloses a system that has the capability of using a voice module that is addressable and can broadcast a live and/or recorded message upon a detected alarm condition, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a voice module that includes an audio block and control block, as disclosed by Kirschner, with the system of Capowski, to provide a system that can be modified by a

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remote control unit that will initiate the vocal messages and allow each voice module to determine whether the a live broadcast or prerecorded message should be issued.

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. The prior art of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure as follows. Topol et al. (US Pat. 4,531,114), discloses a fire system.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Davetta W. Goins whose telephone number is 571-272-2957. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri with every other Fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Wu can be reached on 571-272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



D.W.G.

July 21, 2006

Davetta W. Goins  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2612